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Bangalore Mirror ON SUNDAY

Happy New Year 2023

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TEMP Max 28 | Min 14 | Humidity 68% Generally cloudy sky. Misty morning

Sensex 59,845 | Nifty 17,806 | Gold 54,561 | Silver 69,021 | Dollar 82.60 | Euro 88.11 | GBP 99.56

Overcrowded buses and high traffic as usual left Bengalureans with no choice than to pay sky-high auto fares on New Year's eve

NEW YEAR JOURNEYS

Citizens willing to pay Rs 150-200 for less than 2 km

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

As people stepped out to celebrate on the last day of the year, they were hit by sky-high auto fares and traffic on New Year's eve.

Commuters BM spoke to said that because of the high demand, autos were charging higher fares than usual on December 30 and 31. With overcrowded buses and high traffic, citizens were left with no choice than to pay high fares.

PAGE 2: MOOD OF THE CITY ON NYE

"In the areas around Jayanagar, it is almost impossible to get a ride through the apps. The autos are charging a very high fare since the demand is high; people are willing to pay Rs 150-200 for less than 2 km also... The drivers said that since the traffic is high, they will be charging more especially to go to Koramangala," Akash Pandey, a resident of Jayanagar, told BM.

Though the timings have been extended for public transport like BMTC and BMRCL for the occasion

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

KAUSHIK JN

"For Christmas too, there was a lot of traffic in CBD; auto drivers were refusing to go anywhere for less than Rs 150

– Rakshita Kumar, commuter

Smart meters 'await state govt nod'

Smart meter has prepaid usage option, reduces excess energy consumption; no defaulter hassle

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Even after big fanfare about smart meters, the rollout has not started yet in Bengaluru. According to Bangalore Electricity Supply Company (BESCOM), the smart meters proposal is yet to be approved by the state government.

The much-hailed initiative expected to revolutionise meter fare collection in the city failed to take off in 2022. Not even one smart meter has been installed in the city, according to BESCOM officials.

"Smart meters under the Central government scheme are yet to be approved. The detailed project report has been prepared and submitted which is yet to be approved by the state government. We have been given 3-4 years for completing the installation. Until 2026, various works will be carried out under the scheme to assist the installation," a senior BESCOM official told BM.

As per the initial deadline, BESCOM was supposed to install around 17.5 lakh smart meters in non-residential buildings in the

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Handlooms and more

New Crafts is organising silk India exhibition, a unique display which brings together rural weavers from different parts of India featuring vast collection of handlooms, dress material and sarees. You can find jewellery: silver, kundan and meenakari, textiles, handmade paper, precious and semi-precious stones: gemstone, paintings, leather craft, handcrafted items and much more.
Where: Sindhoor Convention Centre, JP Nagar
When: Ongoing

02 Some contemporary jazz, people?

Transatlantic Roots is all set to perform at Windmills. In the Transatlantic Roots project, composer Bruno Angelini, along with Fabrice Martinez (trumpet/bugle) & Eric Echampard (drums), explores a double culture to bring to life the themes and subjects imagined by Bruno. His compositions develop a personal language in a harmonic universe close to contemporary music - a meticulous and demanding sound research which he pursues on the piano.
Where: Windmills; When: January 6 & 7, 9:30 pm onwards

03 Art, in retrospect

Bengaluru's gallery g showcases 'Revelation & Reverences: Glimpses of Indian Art 1850 - 1950'. This three-month-long exhibition will have on display a collection of rare oil paintings, water colours, chromolithographs, litho stones, terracotta dolls and other rare artefacts. The exhibition charts the evolution of India's art history from the mid-19th century to Independent India. **Where: gallery g, Lavelle Road**
When: ongoing

Looking at '23, with hope

PICTURES: KAUSHIK JN

Just NYE scenes: Massive crowds throng Brigade Road, MG Road and celebrate the last day of 2022; cops stand in crowd-control mode, a seller dons a mask

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It was almost as if covid never happened. After two years, MG Road and Brigade Road were packed with people waiting to ring in the new year.

Revellers from across Bengaluru started arriving by afternoon and the crowd swelled as the night fell. The police had made elaborate arrangements so that no incidents were reported. This time, the police had taken steps like installation of 37 'safe booths'. These safe booths had a bed for providing temporary relief for any reveller who either fell sick or was unable to go home. The safe booths would also act as shelter for women as well. This time, many women cops were posted at vantage points. Dedicated space was marked for ambulances as well.

Earlier in the day, police along with a dog squad conducted a thorough check in and around the MG road. Like every year, most of the flyovers were shut for public use at night.

This year, the police had sent an advisory to the PG and pub owners to shut down entrances to the terrace to prevent people partying on the terrace and accidentally falling down. Following instructions from the police, the hotels in MG Road, Church Street and Brigade Road had shut down the entry to the terrace. Police had warned the apartment owners association and pub owners association that they would be held responsible if they had not shut the entry to terraces.

Around 37 'safe booths' installed by the cops acted as a shelter for women and anyone who fell sick and was unable to go home

Meanwhile, most of the pubs and hotels were crowded. Many of the pubs had even hired lady bouncers. To make MG road area safe, the police had set up a war room to keep an eye on the movements via CCTV.

A senior police official said, "We are monitoring the NY events via CCTV. Last year, there were only 60 cameras but this time we have increased the number by five times as 300 cameras have been fixed at vantage points so that we can cover the entire MG Road, Church Street and Brigade Road.

At any given point of time, we were monitoring the live feed of 150 cameras from the control room. Besides this, we had erected watch towers and drones were also operated. We were monitoring footpaths, main roads, bus stops, Metro entry and signals via the cameras."

State Police Dept gets major reshuffle

The Karnataka government on Saturday conducted a major reshuffle in the Police Department by promoting 53 Indian Police Service officers and transferring many of them.

Director General of Police (Prisons), Dr Alok Mohan has been transferred as the DGP (Home Guards Commandant General), while Bengaluru Police Commissioner C H Pratap Reddy has been promoted to the rank of DGP. Inspector General of Police of North Eastern Range in Kalaburagi Manish Kharbikar has been transferred as the Additional DGP (Prisons) while Northern Range, Belagavi, IGP N Satheesh Kumar has been posted as the new IGP of North Eastern Range in Kalaburagi.

IGP (Intelligence) Soumendu Mukherjee has been promoted as the ADGP of Communication, Logistics and Modernisation.

Central Range IGP M Chandra Sekhar will be the Additional Commissioner of Police of Bengaluru East Zone.

DIG-rank Joint Commissioner of Bengaluru Raman Gupta will be the Northern Range IGP. DIG of the Criminal Investigation Department BR Ravikanthe Gowda has been elevated as IGP of Central Range, Bengaluru.

DIG Ballari range B S Lokesh Kumar will now be the IGP of Ballari range. **– PTI**

8 arrested for selling fake antiques

PIC FOR ILLUSTRATIVE PURPOSES ONLY

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The Central Crime Branch (CCB) police have arrested eight for cheating people by selling fake antiques while staying at a prestigious five-star hotel on Mahatma Gandhi Road.

Rajesh, 36, of Singapore Layout, Mohammad Gaus Pasha, 52, of RT Nagar, Srinivasa, 35, of Lingarajapuram, Kumar, 29, of Yelahanka, Vikas, 27, of Chennai, Stephen, 38, of Coimbatore, Srinivalasan, 42, and Sahil, 35, of Pune were arrested. The police have seized an old pitcher-style antique jar from them and are investigating the matter.

The preliminary investigation revealed that the accused would sell the pitcher to people and cheat them of their money by telling them that if they kept the jar at home and worshiped it, they would become millionaires. A senior police officer said that a case has been registered against the accused in Halasuru Police Station.

Cops arrested for extorting Rs 25 lakh

An FIR has been registered against three policemen from Bengaluru for allegedly extorting Rs 25 lakh from a businessman. A case has been registered in Delhi's Seemapuri police station, while a case has been filed against three persons from V V Puram police station. An FIR has been filed against Satish, Mutturaj and Basavaraj Patil.

According to the police, CCTV dealer Pankaj Jain filed a complaint against the policemen. The policemen were asking for a bribe of Rs 25 lakhs and had already collected a check of Rs 7 lakh from the businessman.

Man arrested for blackmail

A case has been filed against a man for blackmailing a stranger and threatening to leak private pictures of him and his girlfriend.

Pawan, a 21-year-old graduate who is currently a resident of Hebbal, was at a tea shop in Mathikere. Pawan had approached a stranger on the road and asked for using his phone to make an urgent call.

The stranger unlocked the phone for Pawan. Later, Pawan ran away with the phone.

Pawan then opened the lock and saw private photos and videos of the young man with his girlfriend. By capitalising on this, Pawan blackmailed the man and demanding Rs 1 lakh otherwise, he would leak the photos.

After learning about this matter, the victim lodged a complaint with the Yeswanthpur police station. Based on this complaint, the team headed by Inspector Suresh, registered a case and conducted an investigation, arresting Pawan.

A senior officer said that the mobile phone of the accused has been confiscated and further investigation is being conducted.

2 nabbed for peddling drugs worth Rs 10 L

Basavanagudi police have arrested two people who were supplying illicit drugs. The police have seized drugs worth around Rs 10 lakh.

Based on information from sources, the police of Basavanagudi police station, on the instructions given by the senior officials to find and take action against the accused involved in the sale of prohibited drugs in the city, arrested two accused and recovered about Rs 10 lakh.

The accused has been identified as Seenappa, 40 years, and G Nagesh, 55 years.

A Tata Indica car, one Honda Activa two-wheeler, mobile phone and cash has also been seized from the accused.

IPS officer who acted against mafia retires

Senior IPS officer Amar Kumar Pande, who played a key role in arresting and bringing back underworld dons Ravi Poojari and Bannanje Raja to India, retired on Saturday from the Karnataka Police Department.

Pande served as the Additional Director General of Police (ADGP) of State Fire Force and Emergency Services. He is a 1989 cadre IPS officer from Bihar and rendered 33 years of service in various positions in the department.

Pande also started ambulance services on highways and saved hundreds of lives during his tenure as the SP of Dharwad

Pande started ambulance services on highways and saved hundreds of lives during his tenure as the SP of Dharwad. When he was IGP of Central Zone, the police carried out an encounter of the notorious Bettanagere Seena in Bengaluru Rural District.

The encounter had brought down the criminal and mafia activities in the region. Pande has played an important role in the arresting of terror suspect Mehdi Biswas, who was allegedly handling the social media account of terror outfit ISIS. Pande was heading the Internal Security Division (ISD). He was the mastermind behind the operation to bring back international dons Ravi Poojari and Bannanje Raja, who were holed up in foreign countries.

Pande was honoured with the President Medal, Distinguished Service Medal, Chief Minister Medal for meritorious services and many awards. Pande has also penned four books in English.

Staggered salaries for employees, starting '23

Following cash crunch, BBMP decides to make staggered payments to its employees; Group A officers to be paid after waste contractors, pourakarmikas

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As the New Year begins, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) has listed a new set of resolutions. Don't be surprised to find that city roads without potholes are not part of the resolutions yet as officials want to focus only on those resolutions which can be fulfilled.

The last deadline to fill potholes was December 31 and now we have lost count of missed deadlines as potholes continue to exist. Hence, the new resolutions are related to salary disbursement. Going forward, not everyone in the BBMP will get salaries on the first of every month. Instead, it will be in a staggered manner.

BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath on Saturday, said, "Till now, we were paying salaries to all the staff at one go. However, now, we have decided to modify this process. Going forward, the salaries will be first paid to B, C and D employees. Then, it will be the turn of pourkarmikas under Direct Payment System (DPS)."

He added, "The next set of funds will be distributed to C and D waste contractors (one month bill clearance) and those managing garbage collection tippers. The remaining money will be then distributed to streetlight maintenance, park/lake maintenance and tree pruning etc.

KAUSHIK JN

Pourakarmikas will be paid after Group D employees; (inset) at the end, remaining funds will be distributed for maintenance of street lights in the city

> **"We have renewed our target to collect Rs 1,400 crore by March 31**
> – Tushar Giri Nath, BBMP Chief

Then, it will be the turn of Group A officers to receive salaries followed by Home Guards, Marshalls and outsourced employees."

Nath claimed that the Group A officers will receive salary at a later stage as the corporation wants the officers to focus on revenue collection first and this measure of staggered distribution will force the officers to work 'hard' and earn more revenues for BBMP.

Following a shortfall in tax collection BBMP has been forced to change the salary distribution structure. By December 31, BBMP has been able to collect Rs 2,718.22 crore as against the target of Rs 4,189.78 crore.

"Our annual tax target is Rs 1,400 crore. We should have achieved 75 per- cent of our target by December but now our achievement is merely 64.88 per cent. Hence, we have renewed our target to collect Rs 1,400 crore by March 31," he explained.

Mahadevapura zone is cash cow for BBMP

Of all the eight zones in the city, Mahadevapura seems to be the cash cow as it nets the maximum property tax in the city.

Till December 31, a total of Rs 693.18 crore has been collected from Mahadevapura zone alone. The target for the zone is Rs 1,032.96 crore and BBMP officials have been successful in 67.11 per- cent of collection so far. The lowest target was met by the Dasarahalli zone.

Costly trip on NYE

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

of New Year's eve, people complained that the buses were crowded because of the rush.

"Anyway, around 5-8 in the evening, the buses were filled heavily, but since it was a holiday there was no space in some of the buses. It is great that the public is being encouraged to make use of public transport by extending the timings but the heavy rush on this day is making it difficult for us to go anywhere," said Rakshita Kumar, another commuter.

"With all the pubs and restaurants booked out for the night and no way to reach these places, it is better to stay in for the new year's eve instead.

Bengaluru always witnesses high excitement for the New Year as there is a huge population of working professionals and students. The auto and cab drivers know this fact and use it for their own profit... For Christmas also, there was a lot of traffic in the CBD area and the auto drivers were refusing to go anywhere for less than Rs 150," she added.

Many people felt that there were less number of autos on the road because of the ongoing protest by the auto driver unions. However, the unions denied stopping any services for the New Year's eve.

Auto Rickshaw Drivers Union (ARDU) president D Rudramurthy said: "There are 30,000 auto drivers in this union; we protested on Thursday. However, it was a simple protest; we have not stopped services around the city as a union."

Moreover, areas around the central business district such as Brigade Road, Mahatma Gandhi Road, Church Street and Residency Road, that usually see a crowd on New Year's eve were restricted for vehicular movement on December 31.

Bengaluru awaits smart meters, still

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

city by 2023. With not even a single smart meter installed, the project could likely be delayed as per projected estimates. By the year 2025, residential buildings were expected to be taken up for installation.

While officially, the department has not commenced the installation of smart meters in the city, a pilot was conducted in the Chandapura division. In a few households, smart meters were installed as part of a university study, said a senior BESCOM official.

Why smart meter?

Smart meters are a novel method to establish a two-way feedback mechanism with each electricity meter and BESCOM. The smart meter records data on various parameters and displays it to the customer. Details such as energy consumed, current and power factor can be seen on the meter display. It is posited as a method to reduce the consumption of energy by users. The meters can help citizens to keep a check on the electricity consumed and to utilise it efficiently.

The process is also expected to expedite customer billings. In case of power cuts, BESCOM officials will be informed immediately and the issue can be resolved remotely without the hassle of lodging a complaint with customer care. A unique feature of the smart meter is the prepaid usage method. Customers will have the option to prepay for electricity usage and only utilise it as per the remaining prepaid energy available. The method is expected to reduce excess energy consumption and avoid defaulter hassles. It also helps BESCOM to regulate peak-hour energy demands in the city.

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Wrong way

Jayanagar

BWSSB has started digging the road at 9th Main Road, 4th Block, Jayanagar. The road was asphalted recently.

Garbage piles

Fraser Town

People throw garbage in front of Santosh Hospital on Promenade Road. Despite complaining to the BBMP, it hasn't been solved.

Dangerous loop

Nandini Layout

Here's a dangerously dangling cable on the busy Main Road near Nandini Layout Bus Stand near SWD, opposite the medical clinic.

RESPONSE CONNECT INITIATIVE

This year, prioritise your kidneys

In the wake of the increasing kidney disease burden, doctors say that one of the new year resolutions should be to prioritise male fertility and kidney health. In addition to male fertility, various kidney problems like Chronic Kidney Disease (CKD), kidney stones, urinary tract infections, and kidney failures are on the rise. Kidney diseases affect the normal lifestyle of an individual but can be easily avoided with timely detection through regular check-ups and timely treatments.

Dr Suriraju V, (Chairman, Chief Urologist, and a well-known kidney surgeon at Regal Multi-speciality hospital) said, "As we step into the new year, it is important to inculcate a newer and healthier lifestyle to lead a happier life, especially in terms of men's fertility and kidney care. Lifestyle changes along with timely tests and check-ups will play a crucial role in a healthy life."

Lifestyle diseases

Dr Suriraju says that one of the reasons behind the rapid increase in kidney ailments is lifestyle diseases like diabetes and hypertension. The formation of kidney stones is due to a poor lifestyle and lack of exercise. Obesity, uncontrolled diabetes, hypertension, not consuming adequate water, eating junk food, and a high-salt diet contribute to kidney problems. Due to unhealthy habits, there is additional pressure on the kidneys. As a result, the kidney's function deteriorates over time.

"We are seeing an increase in kidney stone cases. It is always important to drink enough water as it will help the solid items that are secreted and stored in the kidney to be excreted

normally. However, if one does not consume adequate water, the salts in the kidney get deposited in the form of a stone," said Dr Suriraju.

Awareness is the key

Dr Suriraju's main aim is to create awareness. He said, "I want people to know that when it comes to health, prevention is always better than cure. It is necessary to take all the important steps to prevent kidney problems. For a healthy functioning kidney, prevention of diabetes and hypertension is essential. It is high time to modify lifestyle changes and exercise regularly, practice yoga and meditation along with regular check-ups. People need to undergo a regular kidney check-up with ultrasound, urine, and simple blood tests. This will give us an idea about the health of an individual. The blood and urine test reports are indicators of kidney health." He added that if proper care is taken, then even kidney problems can be prevented. Hence, it is of utmost importance to create awareness among the people.

Kidney ailments

"Today in India almost 4 to 5 lakh patients suffer from kidney failure. And almost 50 percent of the patients are unable to go for dialysis due to financial issues. When it comes to kidney problems like kidney stones, and renal tract infections, the number goes up to approximately 9 to 10 lakh patients each year. Out of them, 3 to 4 lakh people are suffering continuously because of chronic kidney disease (CKD)," he said adding that if precautions like controlling diabetes, and hypertension, consuming a salt-restricted diet, and undergoing regular check-ups can prevent potential renal failure in the least 3.5 to 4 lakh people. He also added that in India, undergoing treatments like dialysis and transplantation is very expensive. Hence, it is important to take the right precautions.

Valuable tips

Dr Suriraju has suggested valuable tips to protect kidneys. "For those under the age of 40, one should undergo ultrasound, urine, and simple blood tests regularly. The right diet and exercises are a must. For those above 40, simple blood tests, urine tests, and ultrasounds once every six months are recommended. There is a need to cut down on obesity and consume a healthy diet and adequate water. There is no alternative other than a transplant if one suffers from kidney damage. Very few people can afford a dialysis cost," he said, adding that a renal transplant is a challenging procedure. "If a person is suffering from kidney disease, it becomes a financial burden for the whole family. Dialysis procedures are expensive. Even though some of the centres provide free dialysis, the patient will have to spend most of the time in the hospital. Traveling costs also get added. So, I am suggesting people avoid all these problems with just a few easy steps."

Silent killer

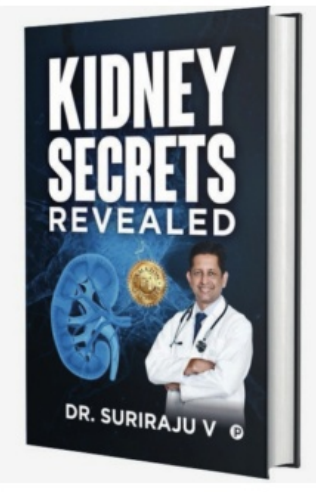
Dr Suriraju also mentioned that one of the major reasons why people ignore kidney problems is because it is painless. He said, "When we have chest pain, we go to the hospital assuming it to be a heart attack. However, kidney problems are like a silent killer. People ignore as there is no pain," he said, highlighting the fact that if people are not facing any pain doesn't mean that their kidneys are functioning perfectly. He emphasized the need to undergo regular check-ups as this was the only way to figure out the overall functioning of the kidneys.

"During a general check-up recently, a patient was diagnosed with a renal tumour of 5 centimetre in size. Thanks to the timely surgery, he was completely cured. This case study highlights the importance of preventive health check-ups," added Dr Suriraju.

Bestseller author

Dr Suriraju is a multifaceted doctor. He has received many prestigious awards including: "Most trusted doctor and Golden Book Award for the Year 2022."

He has also authored the best-seller book titled Kidney Secrets Revealed. "I have penned this book in simple language so that everyone can understand. The book informs people about the problems faced by dialysis patients, the cost related to it, and why people should focus on preventive steps which will help them to lead a happy and healthy life," he said.



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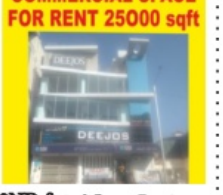

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Party time in Mysuru

Hoteliers in Mysuru see revenues unlike last 15 years, as revellers gather in heritage city

The New Year's Eve (NYE) has given a 'booster dose' to Mysuru tourism as the city's hospitality sector is witnessing a nearly 100 per- cent occupancy rate. For the last two years, Mysuru hotels were hit hard due to poor occupancy. With covid subsiding, tourists are once again flocking to Mysuru to welcome the New Year.

Mysuru Hotel Owners Association President C Narayan Gowda, said, "We are quite happy that almost all the hotel rooms were booked for December 31.

However, as of now, we are seeing comparatively lesser booking in clubs but are hopeful of receiving last minute entrants. I can say that the New Year has definitely given a booster dose for the hospitality sector which was reeling under covid shock."

Mysuru is one of the major tourist attractions in the state. The city usually witnesses a surge in tourists during Dasara. This year, bowing to the pressure from the hospitality sector, the district administration had organised multiple programmes including a flower show at Mysuru palace which had drawn huge crowds. Unlike the last two years, people have been travelling for the 2022 year-end as they wanted to ring in the New Year at a new place.

The partially opened Bengaluru-Mysuru Road has also helped tourists to reach

File photo of Mysuru's central business district all decked up

"We have seen 100 % occupancy for NY at all our hotels this time. We have hosted gala dinners and music programmes to enthrall visitors

– Vijay Kumar, Metropolitan Hotel

Mysuru easily. Overall, Mysuru has 1,500 plus hotels, clubs and lodges. Most of the hotels and lodges are seeing nearly full occupancy since December 20.

According to sources, the foreign tourists usually visit Mysuru between November till March and this year the footfall is higher.

Vijay Kumar, Director of Market, Metropolitan Hotel, said, "We have seen 100 per- cent occupancy for NY at all our hotels this time. We have hosted gala dinners and music programmes to enthrall the visitors. Thanks to the tourist footfall, we are seeing revenues which were not seen in the last 15 years."

Interestingly, half of the tourists in Mysuru are from Bengaluru.

"It takes less time to cover the distance between two cities and we are seeing half of our hotel occupancy from Bengaluru customers. Many want to enjoy the various tourist places in and around Mysuru. The rest of the tourists are from Gujarat, Maharashtra, Kerala, Tamil Nadu and other places," said a hotelier.

Meanwhile, Mysuru Liquor Merchants' Association president S Guruswamy, said, "There are 375 licensed liquor centres in Mysuru along with 50 plus MSIL liquor stores. We are seeing increased sales since December 30 and expect the liquor sales for December -end could be in the range of Rs 25 crore."

— Prakash VL

It's the year of sun and moon for ISRO

Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) will turn its focus on science experiments in 2023 with dedicated missions to the sun - Aditya - and the moon - Chandrayaan-3 - even as the nascent start-up sector is set to soar in the space applications segment.

The upcoming year will also witness a series of experiments on India's maiden human space flight - Gaganyaan project - with the first uncrewed mission expected in the last quarter of 2023 aimed at validating the performance of the human-rated launch vehicle, orbital module propulsion system and recovery operations. ISRO further plans to conduct the first runway landing experiment (RLV-LEX) of the reusable launch vehicle early this year from Aeronautical Test Range in Karnataka's Chitradurga, Union Minister of State in Prime Minister's Office Jitendra Singh told Parliament this month.

Indian start-ups that marked their arrival with the sub-orbital flight by Skyroot Aerospace's Vikram-S rocket, the first by a private sector company and the launch of Pixxel's hyperspectral satellites Shakuntala, on SpaceX's Falcon-9 rocket in April and Anand onboard ISRO's PSLV in November.

Skyroot Aerospace, which launched India's first privately developed rocket in November, plans to put a client satellite in orbit sometime next year, while Agnikul Cosmos, a start-up incubated on the IIT-Madras campus, has also lined up the test flight of its highly customisable Agnibaan rocket.

"We are developing six commercial hyperspectral imagery satellites which will be ready for launch next year," Awais Ahmed, Pixxel co-founder and CEO, had told PTI.

The start-ups are eyeing the huge space applications market in the country, which was earlier the sole domain of ISRO.

"The potential for innovative space applications is immense, especially if established aerospace companies form partnerships with businesses that traditionally haven't ventured into orbit," Chaitanya Dora Surapureddy, Chief Financial Officer, DhruvaSpace, told PTI.

– PTI

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I, Betty Metilda H W/o Rajanbabu Badampudi R/o No. CLQ-29, Lowry Memorial College Campus Quarters, Dooravaninagar, Bengaluru 560016 have changed my name to BETTY METILDA RAJANBABU BADAMPUDI. affidavit Dt.31/12/2022 notary Ganesh Gowda M V, B'luru

I Anbuselvi w/o G.Vijaya Kumar Ex. Naik No.1360992A residing at # 48 Ground Floor ,Vistara 2nd Cross , Abhivruddhi Garden Sacred Hearts Road Kithaganaur T.C.Palya K.R.Puram Bangalore -36 have changed my name to Anbuselvi.V and my date of birth is 10/04/1960

I, VSR Vijayakumari, D/o S.Raju,residing at No.3/1, Madavamudaliar Street, Halasuru, HAL 2nd Stage, Bangalore-560008 have changed my name to Andria Raj vide affidavit dated: 31.12.2022 Sworn before notary Varija.C.J, Bangalore

I Kupadira Machamma W/o Rajagopal Saravanan R/a S-13, Block-A, Sai Ashirwadh Para - dise B'lore-560068 have changed my name to Machamma Kupadira Palangappa vide affidavit dt 31.12.2022 before Notary B M Chandrashekar

I, Priya Roy W/o 14876601W Nk Jayanta Roy resi at Balurghat (WB) have changed my name to Priya Barman vide affidavit dt 20 Dec 22 before Notary Pub, Balurghat.

GENERAL

I Ramaa Khandojirao Bangre, W/o late B V Narayana Murthy, Bengaluru, hereby declare that my name is mentioned as Rama Khandojirao Bangre in passport bearing no. K2135757, mentioned as Ramaa Bangre in Aadhaar, mentioned as Ramaa Khandojirao Bangre in PAN. Ramaa Khandojirao Bangre is my correct name vide affidavit dt 30/12/2022 sworn before notary A Manjunath Reg.No.13262/2017 Bengaluru

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

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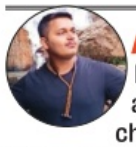
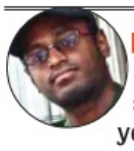
Tell us what is your personal vision for 2023



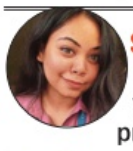
Aviral Singh, BM Reader
I want this year to be an adventurous one that will send chills down my spine. I am also willing to appreciate all the ups and lows, but I wish for mostly ups.

Srijan Shri, BM Reader
This year I would like to try new things, travel more, make some new friends and stress a little less over things

Pitamber Murmu, BM Reader
I want to be the best version of myself and deliver my best to my company as well.



Mruthyun Jai, BM Reader
I want to develop my application skills and work for it further this year.



Shiwangi Arya, BM Reader
My vision for 2023 is to stay away from unnecessary drama and priorities peace in my life.

Mehul Agarwal, BM Reader
I aspire to transcend into the changing landscape of the industry and grow as a human being that humanity needs right now.

SPEAK TO US

How did you fare with your NY resolution in the first week of 2023?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com or WhatsApp us on 9591233247

STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

ON A TRIP TOGETHER

A scoop of pelicans spotted swimming in Sarakki Lake

The picture was clicked by BM reader **Aparna Sambasiva**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesgroup.com**

Seshadripuram roads: No more an exception

Roads in Seshadripuram have not seen any sign of improvement since last six months, residents irked

Seshadripuram is one of the oldest localities in the city. For a long time, the area was known to have good roads but not anymore. Now, Seshadripuram is no more an exception as many of the roads have worn out. Residents have been complaining of poor conditions. Even those roads which were recently asphalted have begun to wear out. The residents say that despite complaining to the authorities, there is no action on the ground.

A resident of Seshadripuram told Bangalore Mirror that residents can now see craters on the girls' school street opposite to Seshadripuram composite college. These craters are causing inconvenience to motorists and pedestrians. "Sadly, we have not seen any road improvement in the last six months. We have tried to contact the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) but no one seems to be bothered," they said. "Every day, I have to walk to college from the Central bus stand. As the roads are bad, I am seeing many motorists losing balance," said Sukanya R, a college student. According to Abhijit R, another student, the roads are worn out and one can see drainage water flowing on the road.

"Many times, the motorists who try to speed away splash the drainage water at us and it is an embarrassing situation to attend college after getting splashed," he said.

"There are even places with no footpaths and we are forced to walk on the road getting drenched in drainage water. As hundreds of students walk in Seshadripuram, the authorities should immediately take corrective steps," he added.

The roads which were recently asphalted have worn out in the area

> **"There are even places in the area with no footpaths. Pedestrians walk on roads** –Abhijit R, a student

Other residents added that the year 2022 is best remembered for BBMP's failure to meet deadlines. The area was served with many deadlines to fill up potholes but none was honoured. The latest deadline was December 31 and yet there is no improvement.

Nagesh Prabhu, another resident of the area, said, "The BBMP used to blame it on rains for not being able to take up road works. Now, with clear skies and no rain for a while, it is high time for the BBMP to act."

He added that merely filling potholes is not enough. Instead BBMP should focus on relaying the entire road now. "I feel that the payment of property tax should be related to local infrastructure development. If the BBMP fails to fix infrastructure, then residents should also get concessions in property tax payment." — **Prakash VL**

DID YOU KNOW?

Karnataka Chitrakala Parishath (KCP) was first established as Mysore Regional Chitrakala Parishath in 1960. The art complex was inaugurated by artist Svetoslav Roerich. It has a total of 18 galleries, out of which 13 galleries have permanent collections of paintings and sculptures. It is also known for running the College of Fine Arts, which was started in 1964. Earlier, it offered a 5 year diploma course in fine arts and was affiliated to the Department of Public Instruction. Later the institution was recognised by the Centre and the State Lalithakala Akademis. KCP was started on the land given by the Karnataka government. At that time it had also received donations from the industrialist HK Kejriwal. At present, KCP is known to hold several art exhibitions, workshops, and sales. It is a platform for artists to display their work and interact with art lovers.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

HERE'S LOOKING AT YOU, 2023

Cauvery water for 110 villages in the city

Sridhar.Vivan
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @sridharvMIRROR

2023 may very well be the year to quench the thirst of residents of the periphery of Bengaluru as the much delayed piped water connection to 110 villages may be completed. BWSSB officials say that the piped water connection project is likely to be completed by March. Officials said that only 25% of pipeline laying work was pending and were hopeful of completion well in time. It is estimated that by 2049, the population of the residents staying in these 110 villages may reach 50 lakh.

As per the agreement with Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) for the Cauvery 5th stage of water supply, the drinking water package must be completed by August 2023. Based on the progress in the works, it is expected to be over by March 2023. However, officials said that the work was delayed due to the outbreak of covid. "During the first wave, the work was delayed by six months and then for another two months during the second wave. The weekend and night curfew further delayed the project in the third wave." With this project, Bengaluru will get more than 775 MLD of water every day, said an official.

3 pumping stations

Three pumping stations (TK Halli, Harohalli and Tataguni) are being constructed for this project and are likely to be functional this year. These stations will be helpful in pumping the required 775 MLD of water. The water from the Shiva balance reservoir is treated in Thorekadanahalli (TK Halli). A pipeline with a diameter of 3000mm is being built from TK Halli to Vajarahalli which is an 80 km distance. This work has been taken up under nine packages. There is also the main pipeline of 114 km from East to West. These pipes will provide water to ground-level reservoirs. The latest pumps and motors are imported from Japan, Sweden and Austria.

New pipelines

Currently, old pipes are being replaced with new ones along with construction of a water processing unit. According to a senior BWSSB official, "JICA has given us August 2023 as a deadline. The work will be completed before that. The pipeline network will fetch water to 11 villages in Dasarahalli, 33 in Bommanahalli, 23 in Mahadevapura, 17 in Rajarajeshwari Nagar and 26 in Byatarayanapura constituencies."

Water tariff to be hiked?

BWSSB officials say that with the increase in input cost, it has become difficult to supply water at the current tariff. Hence, they are demanding a hike in tariff. Sources said that the BWSSB has fixed Rs 56 as minimum tariff. The board charges Rs 7 per 1,000 litres (up to 8,000 litres). Now, there is a proposal to hike this by 16% for residential purposes. For commercial purposes, the board charges Rs 50 per 1,000 liters (up to 10,000 litres slab). Now, there is a proposal to hike this by 21%.

Counting our strays

After 3 years, Palike to conduct census for stray dogs; drive to estimate impact of ABC program

Garima Prasher
c-garima.prasher
@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

After a gap of three years, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) is planning to conduct a census to estimate the population of the city's stray dogs.

According to the officials from the Animal Husbandry Department, the census will start by the end of January 2023. The last estimation of the stray dog population was done in 2019 and the number of canines in the city was found to be about 1.9 lakh. Before that, a dog population census was conducted in 2013 by Palike and the total number of dogs in the city was around 1.85 lakh. Officials said estimation of the stray dog population is crucial to check the impact of the ongoing Animal Birth Control (ABC) program

"We conducted a dog population estimate in 2019. At that time, the total number of dogs was around three lakhs. Out of this, around 65 per cent was estimated to be the stray dog population, and the rest was the pet dog population. We also started the mass vaccination program in 2019 and have covered a good chunk of the population so far. We want to assess the impact of the ABC program through the census. Moreover, the last census was not done very meticulously. We plan to ensure that the exact number of dogs will be counted in this census," said Ravi Kumar, joint director, BBMP, Animal Husbandry.

The Animal Birth Control (ABC) program, according to the officials, has led to birth control surgeries for around two lakh street dogs since it began in 2019. While the ABC initiative was taken up by Palike in 2007, it was rather erratic and done on a much smaller scale earlier. The upcoming census will also take stock of the total number of neutered dogs in the city.

"The ABC program was taken up in an uninterrupted fashion only in 2019. Moreover, it has been done at a scale never before. We have been conducting around 4,500 birth control surgeries every month. In the last three years, we have neutered around two lakh stray dogs. Now we have reached a point where there are not enough dogs under the program reaching our shelter," said another official from the department.

New year, changes galore for Metro passengers

Melvin Mathew
c-melvin.mathew@timesgroup.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Plenty of changes await Metro users this year. An automatic fare collection system, a National Common Mobility Card, and push for electric vehicles to meet last-mile connectivity are some of the things that Metro users can expect.

A new 40-km Metro line will be made operational. The line between Whitefield to Byappanahalli, RV Road to Bommsandra, Nagasandra to BIEC, and Kengeri to Challaghatta. Meanwhile, preliminary work for Phase 3 will be started.

"Metro plans to gain at least Rs 30-40 crore from the non-fare box. BMRCL has already started leasing out open spaces for establishing retail shops and is likely to earn Rs 35-40 crore through this. Additionally, Metro plans on leveraging inside advertisement and hopes to gain Rs 30-40 crore. There is also a proposal to auction the metro pillars for 5G sets and the tender is getting ready. All Metro gates are already AFC-compliant and are waiting for C-DAC's final inspection authorised by the Government of India. The AFCS and NCMC will be launched by next year," said an official.

A 20 MW of solar energy will be derived from establishing roof-top solar panels. This will contribute towards reduced usage of fossil fuel energy. Metro will also take up large-scale plantations in its bid to be environment-friendly. They are also trying to create mini-forests in Bengaluru in areas supplied by various parastatals. Metro will also continue to push for electric vehicles towards meeting last-mile connectivity.

BMTC will also work with BMRCL to provide more feeder buses to meet last-mile connectivity for Metro users but will also tie up with private operators. Yulu is currently in talks with BMRCL to provide a dedicated service at metro stations. Additionally, prepaid auto counters will be restarted next year. Sun Mobility is also in talks with BMRCL to provide battery swap stations at all Metro stations.

"With the transport department having granted e-bike taxi services to Wicked Ride Private Limited, Metro users might see e-bike taxis running to and from metro stations. Currently, Metro has not tied up with any players but is open to applications. Under CSR efforts, BMRCL will invite volunteers to paint the viaduct and piers. Metro highlighted that the painting of piers is left up to the companies undertaking the work. However, only socially productive themes will be granted permission. To reduce the last acquisition issues, Metro will be keeping the alignment on the median. Already, the shift is visible on the Outer Ring Road. They are also locating metro stations in areas primarily with government lands. With inter lapping projects on certain stretches, Metro will consider a double decker system. For example, if a flyover is already coming up in the area, the metro and flyover will be constructed in two levels," said an official.

In its efforts towards multi-modal integration, skywalks will come up in many areas such as KR Puram, Silk Board, Hebbal, Kengeri metro to the bus station, and Yeswanthpur metro station to the railway station. Metro is also planning a 2000-capacity multi-level parking facility in KR Puram. It's almost 3.5 km from KR Puram towards the Hebbal side. The parking facility will be primarily for two-wheelers and three-wheelers and a few spots for four-wheelers.

100 Namma Clinics at your service

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Over the last two years, the Health and Family Welfare (HFW) Department had been at the forefront in tackling the pandemic. For 2023, the state envisages implementing all budget announcements by the end of the financial year and providing quality healthcare. Focus will also be on scaling up the Ayushman Bharat Digital Mission (ABDM).

The financial year (2022-23) witnessed several initiatives from the state with support from the National Health Mission (NHM). Under the HFW services, 84 out of 124 high delivery load facilities were accredited with National level LaQshya (Labour Room Quality Improvement Initiative) certification. This, apart from the HFW-run Jeevasarthakathe programme related to organ transplant, has officially been recognised as SOTTO (State Organ and Tissue Transplant Organisation - SOTTO) by the Centre.

Health Minister Dr K Sudhakar launched 100 Namma Clinics to address the health needs of the vulnerable pockets of urban areas. He told Bangalore Mirror, "Our vision is to make our healthcare system future ready. After covid, our government will now focus on implementing ABDM in a much bigger way. The mission aims to build a platform consisting of digital registries of health providers and facilities, unique health identity, consent framework, and universal access to healthcare. We want Karnataka to become a model for other states. "

HFW, along with NHM, plans to launch 300 Women's Health Centres in a phased manner across the state in 2023. Focus is also on completing the upgradation process of 100 PHCs in aspirational taluks to a 25-bed model CHC. Treatment for cardiac ailments is to be provided at the taluk level to the rural people by mapping 75 taluk hospitals of the state with Sri Jayadeva Institute of Cardiovascular Sciences and Research. Commissioner HFW, Randeep D, said, "The focus shall remain on improving access to quality healthcare by ensuring facilities get Quality Assurance Certification early, along with improving the Infant Mortality Rate (IMR), Maternal Mortality Rate (MMR), and nutritional parameters of the state."

Raising a toast to better roads, healthcare, traffic management... and the wishlist goes on!

Work on High Density Corridors soon

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The long pending work on nine high density corridors is likely to begin this year. The state government has approved nine such corridors with 192 km of seamless road formation and sufficient footpaths for pedestrians. Citizens will be urged to use non-motorised and public transport.

"Around 145 km has been covered under white-topping and the remaining stretches in Phases 1 and 2 will be completed. In 2023, Bengaluru will see 200 km of white-topped roads. Noting that white-topping is time-consuming, BBMP will be pursuing other methods like rapid road technology. After approval from IISC, the work will be undertaken in high-traffic density areas," said an official.

LED lights

BBMP will also focus on expediting underpasses. The Palike is also planning a new light TenderSure road building that won't involve shifting utilities, informed an official. Green hedging, good footpaths, uniform carriage width and cycle lanes will be built. However, no utilities will be shifted from the road to the footpath, he said. "There will also be a duct system across the roads. Wherever there is more than 1.8 m on the footpath, cycle lanes will be constructed. In case the footpath is 2.4 m, we can allocate 90 cm for cycle tracks. BBMP clarified that they won't be pursuing pop-up cycle lanes. Additionally, BBMP is planning to replace 5 lakh sodium bar streetlights with LED ones. A survey will be taken up soon," he said.

Beautification of junctions

Under Amrutha Nagarothana, BBMP will take up the beautification of various junctions. Already 25 junctions are in progress and a few more will be taken up in the coming year. The town hall junction improvement will be inaugurated. In front of BBMP Head Office in Hudson Circle, a new Kempegowda statue is being built. Around 20 junctions will be beautified. BBMP is also working with Word Research Institute to improve traffic congestion in the city and is looking at fixing choked junctions.

Pedestrian projects

"The Gandhi Bazaar pedestrian project being built along with DULT will be launched on March 31. Further, BBMP will work with traffic police to make the movement of traffic seamless. In this regard, measures like the removal of unscientific humps, closure of U-turns, laying of rumble strips will be taken up by BBMP's Traffic Engineering Cell. The traffic police has also identified 50 junctions where tree pruning needs to take place. In a bid to reduce congestion, BBMP will construct two flyovers. One near Minerva Circle with a fish-belly bottom similar to the Sirsi Circle flyover, another in Yelahanka connecting Old Yelahanka Town to International Airport Road. The long-pending Ejipura flyover work will be restarted next year," said another official.

In anticipation of next year's rain, BBMP has five contractors for the hot-mix and cold-mix manufacturing units. An estimated 1,60,000 kgs will be kept ready before the next rain. The agency hopes to rely on cold-mix for filling potholes next year.

Boom Barriers

Laying focus on the health of citizens, the railway parallel road in Kumara Krupa layout will get a boom barrier and vehicles will be restricted from 5 am to 7 am. Pedestrians will be able to walk on roads freely during the period.

KAUSHIK JN

Bengaluru preps for rail projects

Bengaluru's two crucial railway stations Cantonment and Yeshwantpur to see redevelopment in 2023, new Vande Bharat to connect B'luru and Hubballi

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After bagging Vande Bharat in 2022, Bengaluru is likely to have a second Vande Bharat train this year as there is a proposal to connect Bengaluru and Hubballi with a Vande Bharat train. The introduction of this dedicated train was delayed due to delay in doubling of railway tracks between the two cities.

"We hope the electrification of the Bengaluru-Hubballi track will be completed by March 2023 and this will help in the introduction of Vande Bharat Express to Hubballi/Dharwad in March 2023. Besides this, the doubling of Gadag and Wadi is likely to be completed this year," said South Western Railways CPRO Aneesh Hegde.

This year may see the redevelopment of the city's two key stations.

The Cantonment station is one of the oldest railway stations on the South Western Railway (SWR) network. Currently, Bengaluru Cantonment is undergoing a substantive makeover in order to cater to the increased transportation needs of the silicon city.

In the first phase, the yard of the Bengaluru Cantt station is being remodeled at a cost of Rs 45 crores. There will be two additional island platforms and three additional lines to enable operation of increased number of trains from/to this station and reduce the stress on KSR Bengaluru station.

The remodelled yard would be integrated with the quadrupled section between Bengaluru Cantonment and Whitefield. Further, a foot over bridge is being constructed which would connect Borebank Road to Netaji Road.

The remodelling is targeted to be completed by February 2023.

In the second phase, the station building will be redeveloped at a cost of Rs 480 crore. Some of the key features of the upcoming building are a 216 m wide air-concourse, segregated arrival/departure points to avoid congestion, multi-level parking, and more.

The cost of the Yeshwanthpur redevelopment project is Rs 380 crore. This year sees works progressing on a 216 m wide air-concourse, with segregated arrival/departure gates for passengers to avoid congestion. The roof plaza proposed over the platform will include retail spaces.

"Clearly defined LED based signages will be provided for making way-finding easier for passengers in the station premises. A new station building will come up towards the metro-station side (West side) which will be a four storeyed building," said Hegde.

Route map

Survey proposals for new railway lines around Bengaluru sent to railway board

- Hejjala-Heelalige (33 km)
- Nidavanda-Doddaballapur (31 km)
- Devanahalli-Doddaballapur (19 km)
- Doddajala-Devanagonthi (37 km)
- Malur-Anekal road (43 km)
- Hejjala-Solur (34 km)
- Solur-Nidavanda (25 km)

Traffic control: Drones to take over

Soon you can spot drones to help police in traffic management. Special Commissioner MA Saleem, told Bangalore Mirror that Bengaluru will have drones under the safe city project. "The drones will cover the entire traffic jurisdiction in the city. However, there is no fixed time of when it will be in action but hopefully soon in the first quarter of the next year," he said.

"We have made it mandatory for police personnel to report on time and are actively taking steps to reduce congestion. Also, that is the prime reason why we want to focus on technology to record violations because then our personnel will be working to reduce traffic congestion," he explained.

The department is not going to recruit new people as there are already sufficient people to manage traffic, he added.

In 2022, city traffic police took measures to decongest traffic and reduce traffic accidents by methods of enforcement and awareness. This year awaits its own net set of challenges.

In order to address the increasing traffic violations and allegations of corruption, he said that the department will seek to register 90% of violations using technology.

- Ahna Prakash

KSRTC set for electrifying year

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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

While Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is plying electric buses on city roads, Karnataka State Road Transport Corporation (KSRTC) is yet to make its debut.

According to the officials, electric buses will connect Benglauru to many other district headquarters. "KSRTC is planning to get 50 premium inter-state Volvo buses and the first 10 are expected to be added to the fleet by the first week of January," said an official. "By Sankranthi, they will introduce more electric buses to the fleet. Additionally, another 650 diesel buses will be added this year," he added.

Departure & arrival details

Passengers will now be able to know the arrival and departure timing of buses, including the deboarding stop through the KSRTC app. "KSRTC is planning to implement GPS in buses to enable the live-tracking of buses for rural passengers. The proposal of Rs 30 crore has been submitted to the Centre for approval," explained the official.

Crew buses

However, without fare revision and rising diesel costs, operational expenditure remains high for the corporation. In a bid to reduce costs, KSRTC will be implementing single-crew buses. "There are around 600 single-crew buses in the KSRTC fleet right now. Around 35% of the fleet comprises premium, point-to-point, and express buses and will be targeted for single crew buses," informed the official.

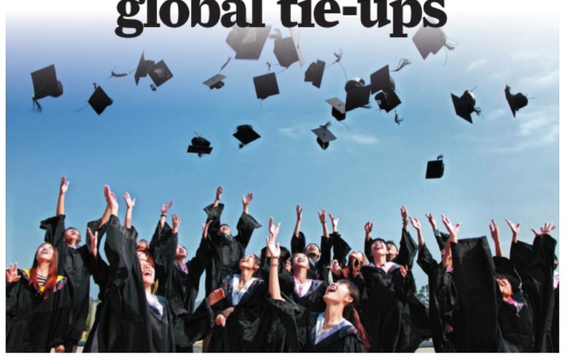
Mobility card

KSRTC is working on bringing about ground ticketing, involving ticketing counters and kiosks to reduce the number of crew. In the next stage, automatic fare collection and national common mobility card (NCMC) will be implemented.

Facelift for bus stand

Officials said the KSRTC was planning to give a face-lift to Kempegowda Bus Station. "Bus stations and workshops will be considered for deriving solar energy from roof-top solar panels..."

Universities look at global tie-ups



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In 2023, more foreign universities are expected to be collaborating with higher education institutes in Karnataka, particularly Bengaluru. "There will be a boost for research with our new programmes and internships. We expect more faculty mobility and resource sharing between foreign countries and our universities," said Lingaraja Gandhi, Vice Chancellor, Bangalore City University.

"Univeristy tie-ups with foreign institutes will be more because the courses have been designed as such. There are several programmes being offered by Infosys, Microsoft. Earlier we used to depend on them mainly for infrastructure, but now it is getting extended to academics," he added.

Foreign language courses

"One of the strengths of our university is our courses in foreign languages. Many Embassies have come forward, especially Spanish, Italian, Japanese, French, and Korean, because there are a lot of job opportunities attached with these languages," said Gandhi.

Expanded learning

Through online learning and e-books, students will be able to learn programmes designed by universities around the world.

"Our programmes can be offered throughout the world. These credits can be earned by the students formally as well in future," he said. Almost 40 per cent of the credits can be gained through technology, so technology will be playing a crucial role in the education sector, he explained.

> **"VTU recently introduced interdisciplinary courses. We only have this for the 1st, 2nd semesters, but are looking to extend it till the eighth semester**
>
> –. Dr Vidyashankar S, V-C, VTU

More interdisciplinary courses

With the introduction of NEP 2020 in Karnataka, a curriculum based on interdisciplinary courses is expected to be introduced in Bengaluru. Dr Vidyashankar S, Vice Chancellor, Visvesvaraya Technological University (VTU), said, "VTU recently introduced interdisciplinary courses. We only have this for the first and second semesters, but are looking to extend it till the eighth semester."

Student-centric campuses

Vidyashankar said he wants students to be placed in the industry, which is why the campus will be more student-centric.

Many more courses

Universities are looking to introduce more academic courses in future, with a special focus on shorter certificate/diploma courses. "Last year, we introduced the department of technology. In the department we are looking to introduce more short-term certificate courses and bridge courses which are in great demand," said the BCU vice chancellor.

5 gadgets that grabbed eyeballs in 2022

We live in a world of amazing technological advancement, portable smart gadgets and intelligent devices. With so many fascinating devices available today, it might be challenging to identify the ones that you should actually purchase.

Indians are slowly but steadily getting used to smart home devices and the tech companies have doubled their efforts to woo more users in the country.

From smart air purifier to floor-cleaning vacuum robots, the Internet of Things (IoT) product categories have increased significantly for the consumers.

Here are the top 5 picks from the lot.

1. Amazon Echo Show 10

The Echo Show 10 is Amazon's most advanced Echo smart home device that comes with a 10.1-inch HD display, 13MP front-facing camera, premium sound and intelligent motion that moves the display to face you as you interact with Alexa.

It uses advanced computer vision algorithms to help make users' homes smarter and more secure.

Users can securely access a live feed from Echo Show 10 through the Alexa application on a smartphone.

"Echo Show 10's intelligent motion capability makes any place in the room the perfect location to enjoy visuals on the HD display combined with an enhanced audio experience," Parag Gupta, Head of Amazon Devices India, had said in a statement.

2. Apple Watch Series 8

Apple Watch Series 8 offers an always-on retina display with up to 1,000 nits of brightness. It also comes with temperature sensing, an innovative new sensor which provides insights into users' overall wellness and enables advanced Cycle Tracking features.

Series 8 smartwatches also provide advanced health features with which wearers can take an electrocardiogram (ECG) anytime and anywhere and can also measure their blood oxygen level.

It also comes with a 'Crash Detection' feature which detects if users have been in a serious car crash and automatically connects them to emergency services and notifies their emergency contacts.

Moreover, it offers an enhanced workout application that elevates users' training with new advanced metrics, custom workouts and multisport functionality.

It also provides an emergency SOS feature. When users make a call with this feature, their Apple Watch automatically calls local emergency services and shares their location with them.

3: Dyson air purifier

With so much air pollution around, Dyson's Hot and cool air purifier 'HP07' reflects the latest technology in two core areas: filtration and acoustics. It captures H1N1 virus and 99.95 percent of particles as small as 0.1 microns such as allergens, bacteria, virus, pollen, and mould spores and is 20 percent quieter, without any compromise on purification performance to reduce unwanted noise at home.

The machine's auto mode enables the machine to maintain a preferred room temperature and air quality levels, while the machine can be entirely controlled by the Dyson Link App and activated by voice control.

4. Robot vacuum cleaner

Eufy's Robovac G20 Hybrid comes with 5 times more suction power to achieve a deeper level of cleanliness and its increase in airflow reduces entanglement on the roller brush for more efficient vacuuming around the house.

It offers ultra-pack dust-compression technology that increases the dust box volume utilisation, so more dust can be collected and less will fly around when it's time to empty.

Eufy RoboVac's unique smart navigation intelligently memorises the house environment and the obstacles in real-time that might stand in its path. The vacuum cleaner quickly builds a virtual map to follow for the most efficient cleaning routine without needing to do it manually.

5: Samsung Galaxy Z Fold4

Touted as a device for multi-taskers, the device offers a large 7.6-inch Dynamic AMOLED display, with apps optimized for the large-screen experience.

Content is even more immersive and distinctive on the 7.6-inch main screen with a 120Hz adaptive refresh rate and a less visible Under Display Camera (UDC) featuring a new scatter-type sub-pixel arrangement.

The device houses Android 12L, a special version of Android created by Google for large-screen experiences.

Galaxy Z Fold4 offers an upgraded 50MP wide lens and 30X Space Zoom17 lens. With the larger pixel size, a 23 percent brighter sensor, and enhanced processing power, you can capture clear images even at night. **IANS**

Twitter employees bring their own toilet paper as Musk fires janitors

Call it crazy but Elon Musk's huge cost-cutting measures have forced some Twitter employees to bring their own toilet paper because there are no janitors to replace supplies at the company's headquarters in the US. The New York Times reported that the absence of janitors has "left the office in disarray."

"Bathrooms have grown dirty and smells of leftover takeout food and body odour" is all over, according to the report.

Musk has shut down four floors at Twitter's headquarters in San Francisco, leaving employees to work out from only two floors.

According to the report, Twitter slashed janitorial services after the staff went on strike for higher pay in early December.

The Janitorial staff found they had been locked out of the Twitter headquarters, with no warning as the new Twitter owner terminated their contract.

Twitter is now down to about 2,000 employees, from the earlier workforce of nearly 7,800 as Musk went for a massing firing after taking it over.

Musk last week said that he spent the "last five weeks cutting costs like crazy".

He said he laid off Twitter's staff and slashed costs in order to save the "company from a $3 billion hole in its budget".

"This company is like, basically, you are in a plane that is headed toward the ground at high speed with the engines on fire and the controls don't work," he told people during a Twitter Spaces audio chat.

According to Musk, Twitter was on track to generate approximately $3 billion worth of revenue while having around $1 billion in cash.

"I now think that Twitter will, in fact, be okay next year," Musk said. **–IANS**

BITS & BYTES

META'S NEW GLASSES

Meta (formerly Facebook) has acquired the Netherlands-based 3D smart glass maker Luxexcel, as it doubles down on its metaverse dream in 2023. Luxexcel can integrate the elements needed to create an augmented reality (AR) experience within a prescription lens, such as holographic film and projectors, reports The Verge.

Meta, however, did not disclose the sum it spent on acquiring the company.

"We're excited that the Luxexcel team has joined Meta, deepening the existing partnership between the two companies," Meta said in a statement. Luxexcel's 3D printed prescription lenses can be used inside AR glasses. **IANS**

BIG DISPLAY

Samsung's upcoming smartphone Galaxy A54 5G will reportedly feature a 6.4-inch OLED FHD+ display with a refresh rate of 120Hz.

According to Android Headlines, the leaked images showed that the new smartphone will come in at least four colours. This includes black, purple, white and greenish-yellow colours, however, Samsung will likely use some different names for these colours. Moreover, the smartphone will also include a 5,000mAh capacity battery inside, with 6GB of RAM and 128GB of storage.

It'll also sport a triple camera setup, and that includes a 50-megapixel main camera, according to the report. **IANS**

OOPS! FIXED IT

Union Minister of State for Electronics and IT, Rajeev Chandrasekhar, on Saturday told Meta-owned WhatsApp to immediately fix an incorrect map of India on its New Year celebrations live-streaming link.

Responding quickly, WhatsApp removed the stream and thanked the minister for pointing out the "unintended error".

"We have promptly removed the stream, apologies. We will be mindful in the future," said the tech giant.

The minister had earlier reiterated that all social media platforms that do business in India must use correct maps. **IANS**

APPLE PRESSES PAUSE

Apple has paused the Home architecture update of iOS 16.2 and added it to an internal list of issues typically reserved only for widespread and notable problems, as it caused widespread and systemic issues to users' HomeKit devices and setup.

According to MacRumors, earlier this month, Apple released iOS 16.2, which included an option for users to update their Home app to a new, more "stable" architecture. **IANS**

HEALTH TIP: Just one exercise bout can elevate myokines, a protein that stimulates anti-cancer processes

To stay hydrated, eat water-rich veggies and fruits such as berries, oranges, grapes, carrots, lettuce, cabbage, spinach and melons

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THE VEGAN WAY

Vegan dishes are not necessarily boring. These popular desserts are a must for a vegan with a sweet tooth

CHOCOLATE BROWNIE

Prep Time: 25 hrs
Cooking Time: 45 mins
Serves 6-8

INGREDIENTS

- All-purpose flour – 400 gms
- Castor sugar – 425 gms
- Cocoa powder – 160 gms
- Baking powder – 5 gms
- Salt – 3 gms
- Water – 200 ml
- Sunflower Vegetable oil – 180 ml
- Vanilla extract – 5 gms

METHOD

- Preheat the oven to 180°C and grease a baking dish.
- Stir together flour, sugar, cocoa powder, baking powder, and salt in a large bowl. Pour in water, vegetable oil, and vanilla.
- Mix until well-blended. Spread evenly in the prepared baking dish.
- Bake in the preheated oven until top is no longer shiny, 25 to 30 minutes. Let cool for at least 10 minutes before cutting into pieces.

BERRY PANNACOTTA

Prep Time: 10 mins
Cook Time: 20 mins
Serves 6-8

INGREDIENTS

- Soya Milk – 300 ml
- Coconut yoghurt – 200 gms
- Agar Agar Powder – 15 gms
- Caster Sugar – 600 gms
- Vanilla Paste – 5 gms
- Rose water – 1 ml
- Cold water – 20 ml
- Assorted fresh berries (Berry Compote-Optional) – 150 gms
- Cinnamon – 10 gms
- Rosemary – 5 gms

METHOD

- In a heavy bottom, bring the soya milk to boil and add 100 grams of sugar and 5 grams vanilla paste.
- Soak agar-agar in cold water and boil the agar-agar solution for 5 minutes to activate and completely dissolve.
- Take the milk off the stove and add in the agar-agar and mix thoroughly.
- Once the temperature is about 32 degrees celsius add the coconut yoghurt and the rose water and using a whisk, mix the base well.
- Pass the mix through a fine strainer in a clean bowl.
- Put the sweet pannacotta mixture in six individual portions and chill for 4-6 Hours and allow it to set.
- For the compote - Place assorted fresh berries with 50 gms of caster sugar in a small sauce pot, add cinnamon quill and a rosemary sprig and cook till the sauce goes thick and the berry loses about 50% moisture. Allow this to completely cool, discard the cinnamon and rosemary and top the Pannacotta with the compote. And serve chilled.

TAB TIM KROB

Prep Time: 10 mins
Cook Time: 10 mins
Cook Time: 10 mins
Serves 2-4

INGREDIENTS:

- Canned water chestnuts – 300gms
- Tapioca flour – 150 gms
- Rose flavoured syrup – 200ml
- Ripe jack fruit- 80gms
- Sugar – 400 gms
- Coconut milk- 200 Ml

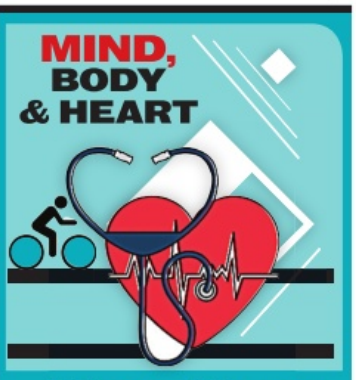
METHOD

- Dice water chestnuts and soak it in sweet rose flavoured syrup for one hour.
- Strain the water chestnuts and mix it with the tapioca flour.
- Keep pot with boiling water and boil the water chestnuts in it.
- After boiling put the water chestnuts in cold water.
- Boil sugar, water and pandan leaves for 15 minutes and then strain it and cool it further.
- Put the boiled water chestnuts in sugar syrup and keep aside.

SERVE

- In the Martini glass, arrange 35 gms of sweet water chestnuts.
- Put one scoop of crush ice in middle of the glass.
- Add sweet thickened coconut cream on top of the crush ice.
- Top of this arrange sweetened jack fruit.
- Garnish it with mint leaves and serve.

By Chef Gaurav Bansal, Chef De Cuisine, Sheraton Grand Bangalore Hotel at Brigade Gateway.



All problems solved

Dear Coleen

I've been seeing my boyfriend for about six months and all was going well until I brought up the subject of having kids. He said he doesn't want "any more" because he fathered a child when he was 19, who he hardly sees. He had never mentioned her before. I was totally blindsided and felt like I didn't know this person at all. I'm not at all bothered that he has a daughter, but I'm very upset that it's taken him six months to tell me. I can't stand secrets and lies, and now I'm questioning the whole relationship. I was worried he didn't think enough of me to share this information, but now I'm worried he's cold or emotionally constipated. How do we take this relationship forward when he's covered up such a big part of his life?

COLEEN SAYS

I don't think you do know everything about someone in six months. It could help to think about the context and get some more information - this has probably been a very painful journey for him.

His ex may be difficult when it comes to access or might have stopped him seeing their daughter altogether. He could feel guilty about it or worry for being an absent parent.

It could also be that he finds it hard to talk about and it makes him feel vulnerable. He's been burned, so I understand that the idea of having kids might be off his radar.

He may be thinking: "What if it happens again and I don't get to see this child?"

It might just be fear talking, but if your love grows and he feels secure with you, his mind could change. And if it doesn't and you want kids, it's your call. I don't think he's lied to you. This is the first time you've brought up the idea of kids, so try being a bit more understanding and talk it out.

—Coleen Nolan, Daily Mirror

Chai-Time

SOLVE IT IN A MINUTE

[(4*4*4*4*4) / (4*4*4)]^2 = ?

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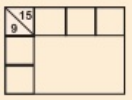
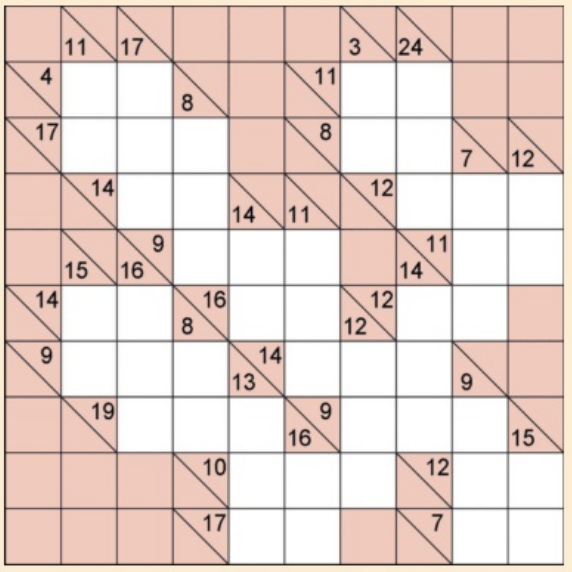
Kakuro

The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas

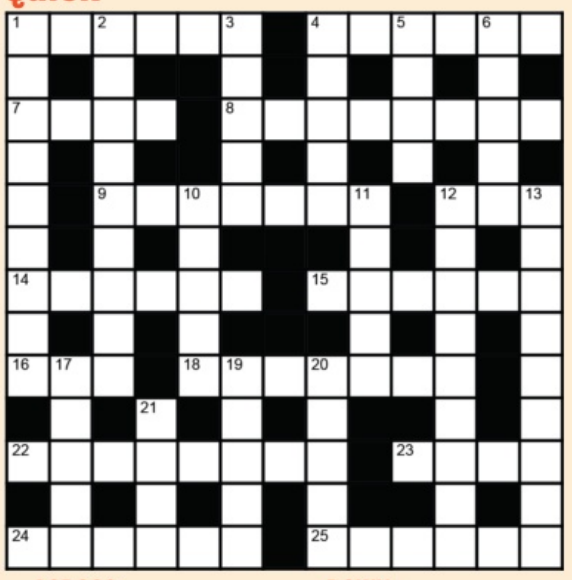


for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.

Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Fat used in candles (6)
4 Fine sword (6)
7 Short person (4)
8 Punctually (2,3,3)
9 Where three rivers meet in Karnataka (7)
12 Wield vigorously (3)
14 Undivided (6)
15 Arctic abodes (6)
16 Have being (3)
18 The ultimate consumer (3-4)
22 Insulin deficient person (8)
23 Thought (4)
24 In truth (6)
25 Brain-teaser (6)

DOWN

1 Large hairy spider (9)
2 Overwhelming electoral victory (9)
3 Incorrect (5)
4 Tribal symbol (5)
5 Place; stead (4)
6 Drily witty (5)
10 Sibling's daughter (5)
11 Protection or support (5)
12 Jutted out or projected from a surface (9)
13 A polite answer where someone asks, "Do you want some more?" (3,6)
17 Time in power (5)
19 Famous (5)
20 Open sore (5)
21 Competent (4)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: K EQUALS U

NJK LSN HTSCP OTP VSZJKCH JB OTP ACPSO, ZKO NJK LSN FJO HTSCP OTP HXJGV.

Linemaro

Unlike the songs on my ipod, I'll never get tired of you

Mindchow

Coincidence is God's way of remaining anonymous

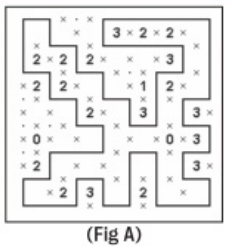
Joke of the day

I can't give him a book as a gift. He may already have one

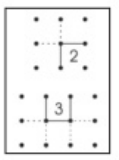
Loop

Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.



(Fig A)

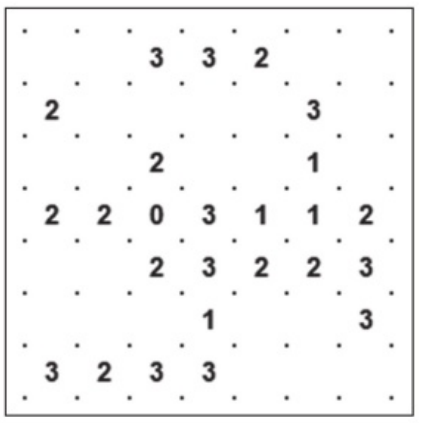


(Fig B) Not Allowed

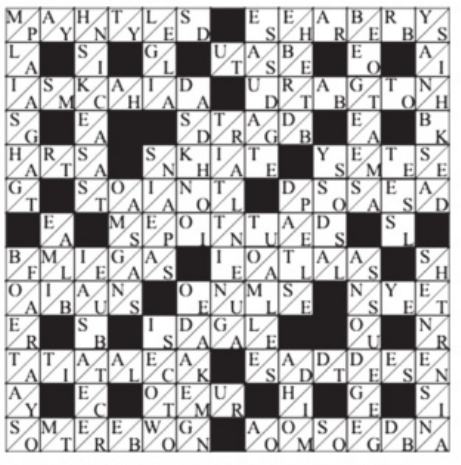
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...

1	2	3	4	5
6				
7				
8				
9		U		

ACROSS

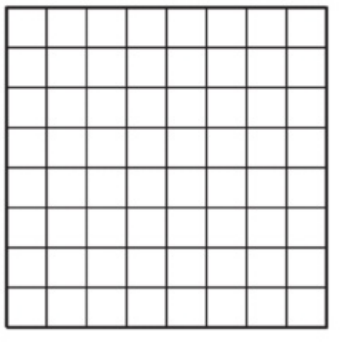
1 Stims; 6 On hut; 7 Neaps; 8 Bait I; 9 Tucks

DOWN

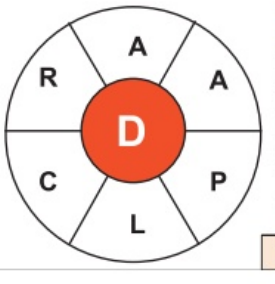
1 Smuts; 2 In nit; 3 Bah us; 4 Optic; 5 Stake

Mensapuzzle

How many squares of any size are in the grid?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

02 Average; 03 Good; 04 Outstanding

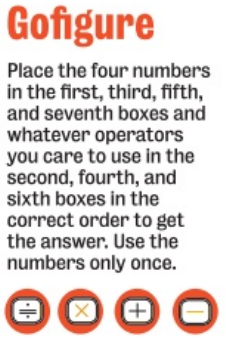
SudokuChallenge

	9					8	4	
			9	4	2	6		
	1		6					3
		5	2	6				
4			5		7			8
				3	4	5		
7					6		9	
		1	7	9	3			
	3	2					1	

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.



Easy = 14
5 8 8 9

Medium = 16
1 3 5 9

Hard = 27
3 9 9 6

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

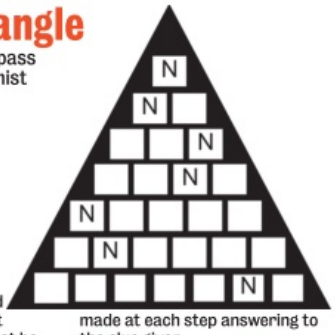
Differences: 1. Arm is moved. 2. Boy is moved. 3. Tree is moved. 4. Mouth is different. 5. Bottom of shirt is different. 6. Sneakers are different.

Riddler

I beam, I shine, I sparkle white I'll brighten the gloom with my light I'll mystify and enchant all I'll bring out the best in you all Goofy, bucked, green or gold Young and charming, wise and old Sly, cunning, empty some times Mirthful, uplifting, within the lines A fleeting glimpse or prolonged show I'm sometimes sad, sometimes mean Sometimes I'll say more than you know Or betray what you think you've seen Now, if you know me, tell me so You have me too, you know! What am I?

Alpha triangle

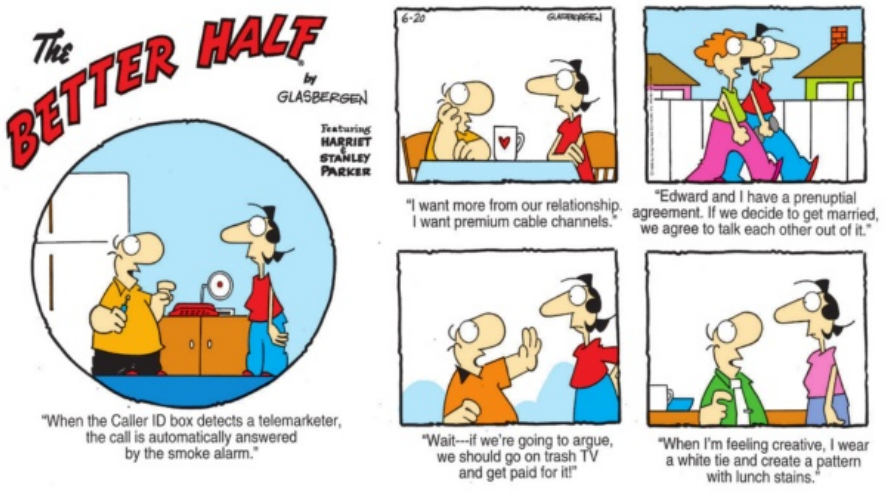
1 North on the compass
2 Neon for the chemist
3 Japanese coin
4 Compos mentis
5 Comes in range
6 Caught
7 Inures



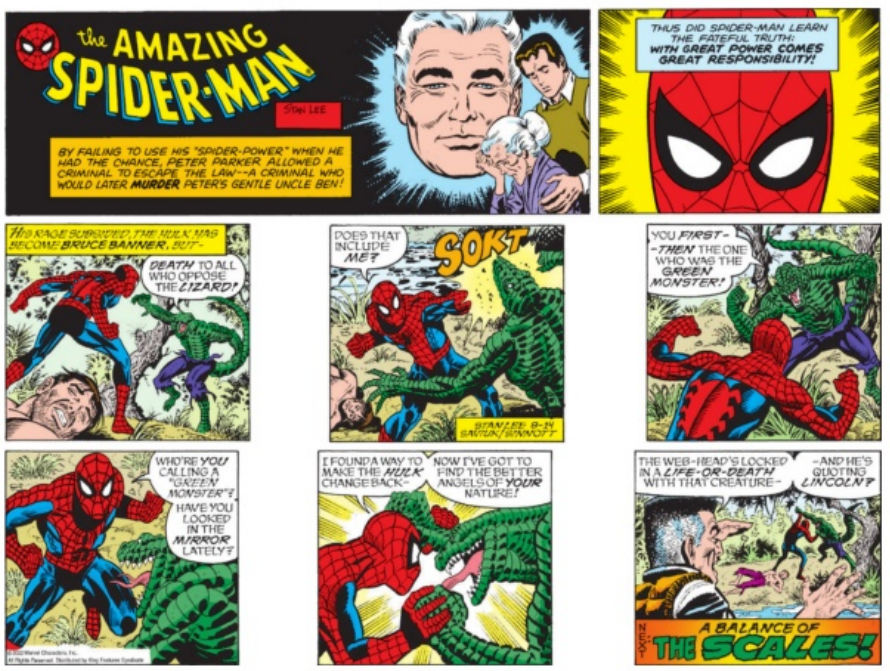
Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE »

COMICS


The BETTER HALF
by GLASBERGEN
featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
"When the Caller ID box detects a telemarketer, the call is automatically answered by the smoke alarm."
"I want more from our relationship. I want premium cable channels."
"Edward and I have a prenuptial agreement. If we decide to get married, we agree to talk each other out of it."
"Wait---if we're going to argue, we should go on trash TV and get paid for it!"
"When I'm feeling creative, I wear a white tie and create a pattern with lunch stains."

BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
DID YOU GET YOUR MATH TEST BACK TODAY?
YES.
DID YOU BRING IT HOME WITH YOU?
YES.
IS IT IN THE HOUSE SOMEWHERE?
YES.
MAY I SEE IT?
NO. I ACCIDENTALLY DROPPED IT. IT'S RUINED.
YOU CAN'T RUIN A PAPER JUST BY DROPPING IT!
YOU CAN, IF YOU'RE CAREFUL WHERE YOU DROP IT.


the AMAZING SPIDER-MAN
STAN LEE
BY FAILING TO USE HIS "SPIDER-POWER" WHEN HE HAD THE CHANCE, PETER PARKER ALLOWED A CRIMINAL TO ESCAPE THE LAW--A CRIMINAL WHO WOULD LATER MURDER PETER'S GENTLE UNCLE BEN!
THUS DID SPIDER-MAN LEARN THE FATEFUL TRUTH: WITH GREAT POWER COMES GREAT RESPONSIBILITY!
HIS RAGE SURPRISED THE HULK WAS BECOME BRUCE BANNER, BUT--
DEATH TO ALL WHO OPPOSE THE LIZARD!
DOES THAT INCLUDE ME?
SOKT
STAN LEE 9-24 SAYTON/SINNOTT
YOU FIRST--THEN THE ONE WHO WAS THE GREEN MONSTER!
WHO'RE YOU CALLING A "GREEN MONSTER"? HAVE YOU LOOKED IN THE MIRROR LATELY?
I FOUND A WAY TO MAKE THE HULK CHANGE BACK--
NOW I'VE GOT TO FIND THE BETTER ANGELS OF YOUR NATURE!
THE WEB-HEAD'S LOCKED IN A LIFE-OR-DEATH WITH THAT CREATURE--
--AND HE'S QUOTING LINCOLN?
A BALANCE OF THE SCALES!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today you may feel dull, your focus may be lost towards your targets. You may hypothetically take some decision, which may be seen beyond reality. Your expectation may be very high and because of impatience you are not able to fulfill it, you may be upset. You are advised to be careful in adventure tours and rash driving.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today your past investments may give you good profits. You may get good results after an easy job. Your obstacles may go off now. Your financial status may be improved now, new sources of income may be there. Couples may hear good news in terms of kids. You may get success easily.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today you may feel happy, time may be favourable. You may take some important decisions in the business, which may give you benefits in the near future. You may get rewarded, which may increase your prestige in the society. You may also meet some influential people.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today you may be happy and have good patience, which may reflect into your way of working. You may complete your task in an efficient way. You may plan to visit some religious place. You may make some donations to religious places or to some charity. Love birds may develop trust in their relationship; you may be able to control your opponents.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
Today you may feel unhappy, you may feel dull, it affects your way of working, and there may be some delay in your projects to be completed. It may affect your prestige in your professional and domestic life. It is advised to avoid adventure tours or rash driving. Love birds may break up. Job seekers may be disappointed in terms of a new job.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today you may feel a positive vibration around you. Things are under control. You may plan to start a new business in a partnership. You may expect some long distance travel also. You will make a faith with your spouse, which will bring harmony in your domestic life.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
Today you may perform your best in the office. You may have good bonding with the boss; you may get some new responsibilities in terms of promotions. Chronic health issues may be cured now. You may get good incentives for your work also. Disputes with the siblings may be resolved now. Job seekers may find a new job.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today a kid's education may make you busy, you may plan for their higher studies also. Couples may hear good news in terms of kids. You may think to update yourself and make some plan for higher studies to get a promotion in the current job. Singles may find their soulmate. Natives related to education, consultants, and banking will do better.

Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today you may feel dissatisfied, you may not be able to take your responsibilities. Your investments may give you some loss. You are advised to read documents carefully before putting your signature. Elderly health may make you upset. You may plan to reconstruct your house, it is advised to postpone renovation for a while.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today disputes with the siblings may be settled down, it may boost your relationship with them. Your vitality seems to be good, it may help you to complete difficult projects easily. You may expand your network after a short work related trip. You may also help some needy person, it may increase your social status.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today you may be busy with your family, you may feel happy to enjoy it with the family or friends, and you may expect some new sources of income, which may boost your financial health. You may control your expenditures on worthless stuff. You may buy some worthwhile things, which may increase your social status.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today you may be happy and blessed by the moon; you may feel healthy, which may reflect into your way of working. You may perform well in all areas of life, which may improve your prestige. Your concentration may be very good today, you may make some difficult decisions in your business in terms of growth.

KIDZONE

G Vyshnavi, 8 Years, Vinayaka Public School

Siddesh Kiran Gaikwad, 6 Years, Geethanjali Vidyalaya

Kidzone, Bangalore Mirror, No.4, KSCCF Compound, Pampa Maha Kavi Road, Chamrajpet, Bengaluru 560 018; Please send hard copies of your artwork in A4 size only.

SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
=[(4·t4·t4·t4·t4·t1)/(4·t4·t4·t1)]^2
=[(4·t1+t1+t1+t1)/[4·(t1+t1)]]^2
=[(4·(2+t1+t1)]/[4·(2+t1)]]^2
=[(4·(3+t1)]/[4·(t1+(2)]]^2
=[(4·(t1+t4)]/[4·(t1+t2)]]^2
=[(4·(t4+t1)]/[4·(2+t1)]]^2
=[(4·(t5)]/[4·(3)]]^2
=(4·5/4·3)^2
=[4·(5-3)]^2
=[4·(2)]^2
=(4·(2^2)
=(4·(4)
=4·4
=256.

FAST FIVE

M	I	S	T	S
U	N	H	O	T
S	N	A	P	E
T	I	B	I	A
S	T	U	C	K

STRIKE OUT

S	T	R	E	W	N	A	M	O	E	B	A			
Y	E	O	E	R	I	G	I							
A	T	T	A	C	K	S	A	D	E	N				
R	S	S	A	G	E	U	R							
O	B	A	N	O	N	M	E	N	Y	E				
F	L	E	A	S	I	O	T	A	S	H				
A	S	P	O	T	T	E	D	L						
T	T	A	I	N	T	P	O	S	E	D				
H	R	S	S	K	A	T	S	M	E	E				
G	E	S	T	A	B	E	K							
I	S	C	H	I	A	D	R	A	G	O	N			
L	I	L	U	A	E	E	A							
P	A	N	T	E	D	S	H	A	B	B	Y			

QUICK

I	N	D	E	E	D	R	I	D	D	L	E			
G	L	E	E	I	G	I								
D	I	A	B	E	T	I	C	I	D	E	A			
E	A	O	L	U	E									
A	R	E	E	N	D	U	S	E	R	L				
L	D	C	I	T	P									
U	N	I	T	E	D	I	G	L	O	O	S			
T	L	I	E	R	E									
N	S	A	N	G	A	M	A	P	L	Y				
A	D	N	E	U	L									
R	U	N	T	O	N	T	H	E	D	O	T			
A	A	R	O	I	R									
T	A	L	L	O	W	T	O	L	E	D	O			

MENSA PUZZLE
204 squares
$8^2 + 7^2 + 6^2 + 5^2 + 4^2 + 3^2 + 2^2 + 1^2 = 204$

RIDDLER A smile

QUOTE UNCODE
You may share the labours of the great, but you may not share the spoil.

BULL'S EYE
card, clad, lard, PLACARD

9	3	2	4	8	5	7	1	6
6	5	1	7	9	3	4	8	2
7	4	8	1	2	6	3	9	5
1	2	7	8	3	4	5	6	9
4	6	9	5	1	7	2	3	8
3	8	5	2	6	9	1	7	4
5	1	4	6	7	8	9	2	3
8	7	3	9	4	2	6	5	1
2	9	6	3	5	1	8	4	7

SUDOKU

ALPHA TRIANGLE
N, Ne, Sen, Sane, Nears, Snared, Hardens.

GO FIGURE
Easy
8 + 5 + 9 – 8 = 14
Medium
5 + 9 – 1 + 3 = 16
Hard
9 – 3 x 6 – 9 = 27

LOOP

KAKURO

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 # Woman sues Bill Cosby
A woman who alleges Bill Cosby drugged and sexually assaulted her in 1986 sued the comedian-actor, NBC Universal and other companies on Friday in New York

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The toughest role

Genelia speaks about tough task that kept her busy for 10 years

Genelia D'Souza has impressed the audience with her roles in movies like 'Jaane Tu Ya Jaane Na', 'Force' and 'Tera Naal Love Ho Gaya'. The actress had taken a break from showbiz after getting married to Riteish Deshmukh and later becoming a mom to sons Riaan and Rahyl. Now, she has made a comeback with a romantic drama 'Ved' helmed by Riteish himself.

Recently in an interview, Genelia reflected on her life as a homemaker and revealed that is not an easy job. She said that for the last 10 years she has been a homemaker and she did nothing. She was there for relationships and that was her life for the last 10 years. Homemakers' jobs are the toughest.

This year, Genelia and Riteish celebrated their 10th marriage anniversary in February. The couple tied the knot on February 3, 2012. They welcomed their son Riaan in November 2014 and their second son Rahyl in June 2016. They have also worked together in 'Tere Naal Love Ho Gaya', 'Lai Bhari' and 'Masti', and are set to headline Shaad Ali's film 'Mister Mummy' after 10 long years.

-ETimes

That sums it up!

Sara Ali Khan had quite a fruitful 2022. While she had 'Atrangi Re' releasing this year, directed by Aanand L Rai, which got her a lot of critical acclaim. The actress has also been shooting back-to-back for her films - 'Gaslight' with Vikrant Massey and Laxman Utekar's next with Vicky Kaushal.

Sara summed up her year with memories and some goofiness with a poetic caption in her quintessential style. Sara wrote, "Thank you 2022. For all the shoots, films, travels, laughs, meals, coffees, sunrises, full moons, workouts, snow, rain and swims... I hope next year keeps us as busy as honey bees..."

This reel also features her mother Amrita Singh, father Saif Ali Khan and siblings - Ibrahim, Taimur and Jeh. It also sees Sara doing some of the things that she loves - from swimming to spending time with the moon and more!

On the work front, Sara's film with Vicky Kaushal will release next year along with 'Gaslight'. Meanwhile, she had been shooting for her film with Tiger Shroff in London which is reportedly titled 'Mission Eagle'. Sara is also ringing in the New Year in London along with Ibrahim and her mother. **-ETimes**

'Was not invited'

A few months back, Yami Gautam faced negative reviews for her performance in the film 'Dasvi'. The actress has now revealed that she feels she has been ignored by the entertainment media.

In an interview, Yami said that she is not participating in the year-end roundtable discussions, which have long been perceived as exclusive events that give a performer a public stamp of approval. The actress said she isn't 'doing any roundtables. She said with due respect to everyone, and whoever is inviting, and she has a lot of respect for them; most of the actors have grown in their careers while being interviewed by them. She is very fond of everyone, it has nothing to do with the journalists. She just has to do with the whole system, because now there are so many.

The actress further said that it's just like award functions. But for her as an actor, there was a time when she felt that she, too, should have been on the panel, but not invited. Now she is being invited, but why do she want to contribute to a system where these sort of things, when she is in a position to voice her choice? That is not a validation for her, that she has arrived. If she is good at her work, and if the audience likes her work, she will know it. **-ETimes**

ONCE UPON A TIME IN JAMALIGUDDA (KANNADA)
3.5 RATING ★★★½☆
- **DIRECTOR** Kushal Gowda
- **ACTORS** Dhananjaya, Aditi Prabhudeva, Praanya P Rao, Prakash Belawadi, Bhavana Ramanna, Rushika Raj, Mayuri Nataraj, Nandagopal, Santosh and Sathyanna.
- **CERTIFICATION** U/A
- **DURATION** 120 minutes

Tale of a prisoner's love

The film starts off with the story of a child Chukki (Mayuri Nataraj) who tells us about her journey with Krishna alias Hiroshima (Dhananjaya). We are taken to a flashback where we see how Krishna, a simple person misguided by his friends, goes to a massage parlour managed by Parul (Bhavana Ramanna) in the hope of getting some extra facilities. Krishna meets Rukmini alias Rukku (Aditi Prabhudeva) and expects her to cater to his needs. After coming to know how Rukku is compelled to work at the parlour, Krishna falls in love with her. Both decide to elope to another city to lead a happy life.

Parul comes to know about Rukku's plan and asks a police inspector (Nandagopal) to teach Krishna a lesson. The police inspector, being Parul's loyal client, registers a case against Krishna to ensure he is behind the bars. Here, Krishna meets Nagasaki (Yash Shetty). Both manage to escape from prison. They also get a car to escape to another city. However, destiny had other ideas. They find Chukki (played by Praanya P Rao) in the car. Nagasaki tries to eliminate Chukki but Hiroshima saves her. The police are after Hiroshima. What happens to Hiroshima and Chukki is the climax.

As far as the performance of the actors is concerned, Dhananjaya is at his best. He walks away with all honours for his sterling performance as an innocent person who struggles to speak properly due to a fluency disorder. His fans may not like the climax but an actor has to follow the script. Praanya has really done a good job.

Aditi Prabhudeva's plus point is her dialogue delivery. Her performance is excellent in a scene where she meets Dhananjaya along with her friend. Bhavana Ramanna has played a different role. She is convincing as a ruthless owner of a massage parlour who can go to any extent when it comes to protecting her business. Prakash Belawadi and Nandagopal provide good support.

Anoop Seelin's music is soothing. The song Rangada Ragale is a case in point. Cinematographer Karthik has done an excellent job behind the camera and director Kushal Gowda has handled the megaphone with aplomb.

It is worth a watch with the family.

—Y Maheswara Reddy